



Office for Standards  
in Education

## NURSERY INSPECTION REPORT

URN 224857

DfES Number: 518912

### INSPECTION DETAILS

Inspection Date	17/03/2004
Inspector Name	Lesley Jane Bott

### SETTING DETAILS

Day Care Type	Full Day Care
Setting Name	Little Scholars Day Nursery
Setting Address	Randall Lines Hall of Residence North Road Wolverhampton West Midlands

### REGISTERED PROVIDER DETAILS

Name	University of Wolverhampton
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### ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name	University of Wolverhampton
Address	North Street Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1SB

## ABOUT THE INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public that the nursery education for funded three and four year old children is of an acceptable quality. Inspection of nursery education also identifies strengths and weaknesses so that providers can improve the quality of educational provision and help children to achieve the early learning goals (elgs) by the end of the Foundation Stage. This inspection report must be made available to all parents.

If the setting has been inspected previously, an action plan will have been drawn up to tackle issues identified. This inspection, therefore, must also assess what progress has been made in the implementation of this plan.

### Information about the setting

Little Scholars Day Nursery opened in 1990. It operates from three rooms situated on the ground floor of the Randall Lines Hall of Residence, which is part of Wolverhampton University Campus. The building is near the Molineux Football ground and close to the centre of the City. The nursery serves mainly the students and staff of Wolverhampton University, although it is open to the community.

There are currently 50 children aged between 2 and 5 years on the roll. This includes 15 funded 3-year-olds and 4 funded 4-year-olds. Children attend a variety of sessions.

The group opens five days a week during university term times and six weeks during the summer holidays as a playscheme when it is open for up to eight-year-olds. Sessions are from 09.00-18.00.

There are currently six members of staff, two of whom are full time, 90% of staff have an early years qualification and the rest are working towards an appropriate qualification. The setting receives support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP).

## INSPECTION OF THE NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR FUNDED THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS.

### How effective is the nursery education?

Little Scholars Day Nursery offers good quality provision overall which helps children make generally good progress towards the early learning goals.

Teaching is generally good. Staff have a good knowledge and understanding of the foundation stage curriculum and this enables them to plan an interesting range of practical activities which helps children to learn. Children who speak English as an additional language are fully supported and included. All children are constantly encouraged to express their ideas and thoughts verbally. However, there is less challenge in developing children's personal independence at snack and lunch time and outside activities are not sufficiently extended to include all areas of learning. The assessment of children's learning is good. It matches the stepping-stones and informs the term plans. Children behave well, although some older children can be disruptive to the group. The nursery has a good range of equipment to cover all areas of learning. Children enjoy free access for self-selection of activities.

Leadership and management are good. The success of the setting is due to strong leadership and a well-structured management system. These ensure a shared understanding of good early years practice and a commitment to ongoing staff development. The staff team work well together.

The partnership with parents and carers is very good. Parents are kept well informed about the nursery and their child's progress. Staff are available to talk to parents at any time and the nursery has regular parents evenings.

### What is being done well?

- Staff work well as a team to provide an interesting range of activities, they have a good understanding and knowledge of children who speak English as an additional Language and they are fully supported and included. Children are developing an understanding of their own cultures and features in the place they live and the wider and natural world.
- The management structure ensures continual improvement through a commitment to staff development and ongoing training.
- Children's development in maths is very good; they use mathematical ideas and the computer with increasing confidence.

### What needs to be improved?

- the use of the outdoor resources and facilities to extend children's learning in all areas

- the organisation of snack and lunch time
- methods used to manage children's behaviour

#### **What has improved since the last inspection?**

At the last nursery education inspection three key issues for action were identified:

the nursery were asked to extend the range of music children listen to, this has been addressed with the purchase of new tapes. Music is played in the morning when the children arrive and could be jazz, pop, Asian or even top TV tunes and adverts. The children listen and include the music into their free play session;

Improve the planning and the information for parents. This has been addressed very well, parents are kept well informed in many different ways about the progress and development of their children. Staff are prepared to meet individually or regular parents meetings are planned into the year.

Ensure that planning is balanced for all children; planning is now balanced for morning and afternoon sessions, and monitoring of the children ensures that they all have the opportunity to access the activities on offer over the course of the topic.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGEMENTS

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Generally Good
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Children separate easily from their main carer and enjoy nursery. They are developing good relationships with adults and peers. They are learning to co-operate and take turns. There are limited opportunities for children to develop personal independence at routine times. Older children's behaviour can be disruptive to the bigger group.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children handle books carefully, turn pages one at a time and recognise that print carries meaning. Children are beginning to recognise their name when it is written and see familiar words in the environment. They enjoy making marks, older or more able children are beginning to write their name.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show an interest in counting. All children can count to 10. They recognise random numbers and are developing an awareness of sequence. Children show an interest in number problems, shape and size. Children sing rhyming songs for mathematical calculations.

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children confidently examine objects and explore their use to find out more about them. They show an interest in their local environment and the world in which they live and confidently ask questions about their immediate world. They learn about other beliefs and cultures. Children are confidently using everyday technology in role-play situations and have opportunities to experience information technology.

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Judgement:	Very Good
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Children show a very good awareness and understanding of healthy practices with regard to eating and hygiene. Children have an awareness of space and show respect for others. They manage their bodies well to create intended movements. Children move freely and with confidence. They are able to adjust speed, stop and change direction to avoid obstacles.

<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Judgement:	Very Good
Children recognise and name different colours and show an interest in colour, media and texture. Children are able to describe different textures. They enjoy music and self initiated art and craft activities are good. Children enjoy singing songs and can match movements to music.	
<b>Children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is fostered appropriately.</b>	

### **OUTCOME OF THE INSPECTION**

The provision is acceptable and is of good quality overall. Children are making generally good progress towards the early learning goals. The next inspection will take place in three to four years time.

### **WHAT THE SETTING NEEDS TO DO NEXT: THE KEY ISSUES**

- Improve the use of outdoor resources and facilities to extend children's learning in all areas.
- Evaluate and improve the arrangements at snack and lunch time to enable children to make progress with their personal independence.

*The provider must draw up an action plan within 40 working days of receipt of this report showing how the key issues detailed above will be addressed. The action plan must be made available to all parents and to the Local Authority if required. An evaluation of the action taken will form part of the next inspection of funded nursery education.*